



WaterSaver Newsletter [Like us on Facebook](#)

February 2015

Get with the Program

- Can your irrigation timer save you money?
- Can your irrigation timer shut off when it rains?
- Can your irrigation timer automatically water more when it's hot?

It canif you have a 'Smart Controller'.
 A new generation of irrigation controllers, "smart" controllers, automatically adjust irrigation schedules based on actual site and weather conditions. These controllers can prevent irrigation when it rains, apply more water to your landscape during unexpected hot and dry spells, and automatically adjust watering to reduce runoff from slopes. Studies of actual controllers installed at homes in Chandler show savings of approximately 30% on landscape watering without affecting landscape appearance.

Think you might be interested? Attend the FREE [smart controller workshop](#) on February 5. This class will show you how the different models work, and how they are set up so you can feel confident you will get the best one for your landscape needs.



A special event hosted by the Salt River Project is being held on Saturday, March 7. Participants can save up to 80 percent on a smart controller by purchasing one for \$50.00 + tax (retail value \$314.15). Hurry...Space is limited, and you must be an SRP customer. Register at www.srpnet.com/water/discount.aspx. Chandler water customers are also eligible for an additional rebate.

If you have questions on installing, watering, or maintaining your landscape, contact the Water Conservation Office at conserve@chandleraz.gov or call 480-782-3580.

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Upcoming Events

- February 5 ["Smart" Controller Class](#)
- February 6-8 [Gourd Festival](#)
- February 14 [Parada del Sol Parade](#)
- February 21 [Chandler Science Spectacular](#)
- February 24 [Water Wise Edible Gardening](#)
- March 3 [Pruning & Maintaining Landscapes](#)
- March 7 [Tres Rios Nature Festival](#)
- March 10 [Basic Yard Makeovers](#)

See complete schedule at www.chandleraz.gov/water



Monthly Watering Advice

February

January's rainfall did most of the outdoor watering needed for this time of year, with

Ask A Garden Goddess



My oranges have holes in them with insects crawling.

most areas receiving nearly an inch. As temperatures warm up later this month, winter rye or annual flowers may require some supplemental water. Recommendations below are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about two years).

Lawn watering:

- Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 21 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - once every 10 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

- Desert Adapted - once every 30 days
- High Water Use - once every 14 days

Tree watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 40 days
- High Water Use - once every 18 days

Shrub watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 25 days
- High Water Use - once every 12 days

Groundcover and vine watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 24 days
- High Water Use - once every 12 days

Cacti and succulent watering - no water needed

Annuals watering - once every 7 days

Wildflower watering - once every 12 days

Reduce your landscape watering 30 to 50 percent by adjusting your irrigation each season. "[Landscape Watering by the Numbers: A Guide for the Arizona Desert](#)" will help you determine how much water to apply and how long to run your system. Request a free copy at www.chandleraz.gov/water or visit the interactive web site at www.landscapewateringguide.com.

Bonus tip: If plants have been damaged by cold, wait until the danger of frost has passed (about Feb. 15) and/or new growth has emerged before pruning off the damaged areas. The frosted plant parts will help protect the remainder of the plant.

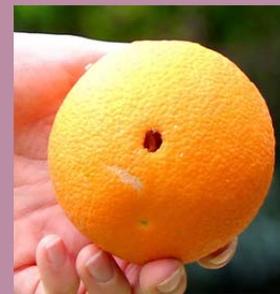
Note: These recommendations are general guidelines only and may need to be modified for your specific site conditions.

How can I prevent this?

The holes you describe are almost always formed by birds like curved bill thrashers, grackles, or woodpeckers looking for moisture. This attracts insects which is a secondary effect and usually causes the fruit to fall off prematurely.

The downed fruit should be cleaned up so as not to attract [roof rats](#). Citrus fruit composts readily in a compost bin or pile.

If your tree isn't too tall, you can cover it with bird netting. Otherwise, be prepared to share a few fruit with feathered friends.



Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov

Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...it's learning to dance in the rain."

We've had a little rain recently, but that doesn't mean the drought is over. SRP reservoirs stand at 50% full compared to 56% this time last year. Drought has the potential to affect the way we use water in the future. That's why Chandler is proud to be an [EPA WaterSense](#) Partner. Our residents learn about savings associated with using WaterSense labeled products and incorporating water efficiency into everyday life to help preserve water for future generations.

If only one out of ten households in Arizona installed WaterSense labeled faucets or faucet aerators in their bathrooms, it could save more than 100 million gallons of water annually-enough to supply nearly 1,000 Arizona households. Plus this would save \$1.4 million in energy costs to heat that water!



A focus on supply management, conservation programs, and water-efficiency education are yielding positive results for Chandler. Even though we have adequate water supplies, there is never enough to waste.

Read how Chandler saves water at www.chandleraz.gov/water.

Plant of the Month

Pink Gaura (*Gaura lindheimeri*)

Native to Texas and Mexico, [Pink Gaura](#) is an erect, clump-forming perennial which typically grows 2 1/2-3' tall on rigid, wand-like stems. Narrow, lance-shaped, stalkless leaves are mottled with maroon.



During the spring and fall in low desert, sprays of small pink orchid-like blooms cover the stems. Its color is a bit unstable, so don't be surprised if your Pink Gaura occasionally puts out a few white flowers.

This plant does best with afternoon shade or filtered shade and prefers moderate irrigation. Be careful not to overwater in summer as root rot may occur in heavy, poorly drained soils.

Gaura's loose, graceful form mixes well with a variety of other low water use perennials or shrubs. It needs little maintenance and no pruning. If water is available, it may surprise you by reseeding.



For more landscape choices and design ideas to help you create a vibrant, attractive, colorful low water use landscape try [Water Wise Landscaping in Chandler](#).

Water Conservation E-News

This monthly newsletter will help you create stunning landscapes that use less water. Each issue is packed with personalized watering advice, notices about upcoming events, timely tips to maintain a healthy landscape, plus ways to reduce your water bill. Read past issues here - [WaterSaver Newsletter](#).

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Sincerely,
Water Conservation Staff

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The WaterSaver newsletter is published by Chandler's Water Conservation Office and is just one more way we're providing Chandler utility customers with inspiring ideas at a reduced cost.

You have received this newsletter because you requested a subscription, asked to receive information from us, or have been identified by Water Conservation as someone who could benefit from the information.

Questions or comments? We want to hear from you! Contact us at conserve@chandleraz.gov



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